

Town of Grand Rapids
Comprehensive Planning Commission Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2008

Present;

Ray Weber(Chairman), Tom Arnold, Rodney Dorski, Eugene Zager, Lori Edwards, Michael Speich, Dave Alft Commission members.

Jeanne Fehrman - Town Boardperson. Zoning Administrator Lorelee Fuehrer, Gary Popelka Wood County Planning Department, and public attendee Bill Clendenning.

Meeting called to order by Chairman Ray Weber at 6:30 p.m.

Motion to accept Comprehensive Planning meeting minutes dated November 19, 2007 with the following changes;

- Eugene Zager wanted the plan to acknowledge the County W highway extension that would follow the existing abandoned railroad rightaway between 32nd Street and 80th Street. This would help alleviate traffic loads of 48th and 64th streets in Grand Rapids.

Second by Tom Arnold and Motion carried.

Gary P. and Lorelee F. gave a rough summary of the survey numbers and some trends. Caution that is just a rough look at what will be final results that will be compiled and organized. Over 3000 surveys were sent out and over 1800 sent back. Comments from residents will help the Town to not only do long range planning but also present day decisions. Many comments about fire and police, growth direction, compost site, no new taxes and many more. Results should be completed in the next month.

The Commission stepped into the next section Agriculture, Natural and Cultural resources. Lorelee F. gave a great overview of all public events and activities that take place in the Town. The Town has a very storied pride and very clean suburban community. Gary P. went over a map that showed agriculture lands (very small). Ag lands do offer some land for cranberries, Altenburg and Reinke farms, hobby horse farms and even some ostrich.

Talked extensively and had a map to follow of runoff, water concerns and the Town's elevations. Soil limitations for building are in the North half of the Town and the southern half offers some prime building opportunities. Seasonal high water depths and even high water levels are in the north half. Talked about high ground water in "82, Lake Wazeecha shadow zone if dam failed and stream setback and bank protection.

There are approximately 703 acres of actual wetland. Commission had good discussion of protecting these wetlands for a natural recharge system for our groundwater. Talked about the need to update our high capacity well ordinance with the talk of Village of Biron looking at property to develop in the Town. Also the mention of well head protection and need to be able to access the City of Wisconsin Rapids water and drainage plans to help the Town to plan.

The seasonal high water map will be redone to make it more accurate and more readable.

The Town has an outstanding cover of patch work forestry. These trees are a valuable asset to the Town, helping to shape the local character and image. Commission talked about the need to ordinance buffer "co-cut" zones in commercial areas and in opposition to let owners manage their own land respectfully.

Gary P. presented a sewer map that the County uses for their planning of Grand Rapids. Had a quite lengthy discussion relating to the Urban Cranberry annexation and the need to take land for that out of the sewer district which falls in Grand Rapids. General feeling that the Town needs to move forward to save/protect from annexation.

Commission reviewed the outstanding parks, lakes, streams, camping, recreational trails, Lions Park to name a few. The point was made that everyone gains from these assets in all South Wood County.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. with motion by Eugene Zager and second by Tom Arnold. Motion carried.

Next meeting will be February 18th starting at 6:30 p.m. Public is welcome.

Respectfully submitted

Mike Speich
Planning Commission